Amendments to the Claims

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) A method for ~~decreasing~~ detecting an amount of a first analyte in a biological fluid that is capable of binding to a first capture reagent immobilized on a solid support without decreasing an amount of a second analyte in said biological fluid that is capable of binding to a second capture reagent immobilized on said solid support, the method comprising:

a) providing a first quantity of said first capture reagent and a first quantity of said second capture reagent wherein said first quantity of said first capture reagent and said first quantity of said second capture reagent are immobilized on a solid support;

b) contacting said solid support with a mixture comprising said biological fluid and a second quantity of ~~with~~ said first capture reagent ~~free in solution~~, wherein the amount of the first analyte capable of binding to said solid support is decreased without decreasing the amount of the second analyte capable of binding to said solid support;

c) detecting the amount of said first analyte via its binding to said first capture reagent immobilized to said solid support.

2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said first capture reagent is an antibody.

3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said first capture reagent is a nucleic acid ligand.

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said first analyte and said second analyte are proteins ~~is a protein~~.

5. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said first capture reagent has a dissociation constant of K_d with said first analyte, a concentration on said solid support of C_s and a concentration in solution of C_f wherein the dissociation constant, K_d, of said first analyte for said first capture reagent is greater than the concentration, C_s, of said first capture reagent immobilized on said solid support, and wherein the concentration, C_f of said first capture reagent free in solution is greater than said dissociation constant, K_d.

6. (original) The method of claim 5 wherein the concentration of said first capture reagent free in solution is about ten-fold greater than said dissociation constant.

7. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said first capture reagent has a dissociation constant of K_d with said first analyte, a concentration on said solid support of C_s and a concentration in solution of C_f, wherein the dissociation constant, K_d, of said first analyte for said first capture reagent is less than the concentration, C_s, of said first capture reagent immobilized on said solid support, and wherein the concentration, C_f of said first capture reagent free in solution is greater than C_s.

8. (original) The method of claim 7 wherein the concentration of said first capture reagent free in solution is about ten-fold greater than C_s.

9. (currently amended) A method for increasing saturation point for ~~an~~ a first analyte of a first capture reagent immobilized on a solid support, without decreasing the saturation point for a second analyte of a second capture reagent immobilized on said solid support in a measurement wherein the level of the first analyte is detected via its binding to the first capture agent immobilized to said solid support, the method comprising contacting said solid support with said first capture reagent free in solution~~, wherein said capture reagent is a nucleic acid ligand~~.

10. (currently amended) A method for determining concentration of ~~an~~ a protein analyte in a biological fluid, the method comprising:

a) providing a first quantity of a capture reagent capable of binding to said analyte with a dissociation constant of K_d, wherein said first quantity of said capture reagent is a nucleic acid ligand immobilized on a solid support;

b) contacting said solid support with a mixture comprising said biological fluid and a second quantity of said capture reagent;

c) removing non-specifically bound material from said solid support;

d) contacting said solid support with a Universal Protein Stain (UPS), said UPS comprising one or more reagents that label proteins with a detectable moiety;

e) measuring the analyte bound to said first quantity of capture reagent; and

~~d)~~ f) calculating the concentration of said analyte in said biological fluid based on the measurement made in step ~~e~~ e), the second quantity of said capture reagent in the mixture of step b), and the K_d of said capture reagent, thereby determining the concentration of said analyte in said biological fluid.

11. (cancel)

12. (cancel)

13. (new) The method of claim 1 wherein said first capture reagent is an antibody fragment.

14. (new) The method of claim 1 wherein the detection is performed through the use of a reagent that is capable of labeling both said first analyte and said second analyte.

15. (new) The method of claim 4 wherein the detection is preformed through the use of a universal protein stain capable of labeling both said first analyte and said second analyte.

16. (new) The method of claim 9 wherein said first capture reagent is a nucleic acid ligand.

17. (new) The method of claim 9 wherein said first and second capture reagents are each nucleic acid ligands.